

P. L. 106-107 Organization Structure

Implementation of Public Law 106-107 (P.L. 106-107) is the responsibility of several interagency organizations that are developing new and revised policies consistent with the statute, creating the electronic means necessary to carrying out some of those policies, or overseeing those efforts. The P. L. 106-107 initiative is structured as follows:

GRANTS EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Grants Executive Board is comprised of senior officials from 11 Executive agencies, known as Partner Agencies, and two rotating agency members with 6-month terms of participation. The Board provides strategic direction to and executive-level oversight of the Grants.gov initiative and implementation of the grants streamlining mandates under P. L. 106-107 and ensures Partner Agency consensus on projects and funding. The Board maintains a dotted-line relationship with the Directors of two Statutory Offices within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Office of Federal Financial Management (OFFM) and the Office of E-Government and Information Technology.

OMB has designated the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the lead agency, to assist OMB in carrying out the implementation of P. L. 106-107 and Grants.gov. HHS has established two program management offices (PMO):

P.L. 106-107 PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE

This office, established within HHS for implementation of P.L. 106-107, coordinates and provides program management support to the Work Groups and other interagency groups implementing P.L. 106-107. The P.L. 106-107 PMO is under the oversight of the Grants Executive Board until September 30, 2004. The oversight for P.L. 106-107 will transfer to the Grants Line of Business as of October 1, 2004.

GRANTS.GOV PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE

This office, established within HHS for the E-Grants initiative, one of the 24 E-Gov initiatives under the President's Management Agenda, is responsible for leading those activities resulting in the development of a one-stop electronic grant portal where potential grant recipients will receive full service electronic grant administration. The Grants.gov PMO is under the oversight of the Grants Executive Board.

P.L. 106-107 PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The P.L. 106-107 Planning and Oversight Committee oversees and coordinates the work of the P.L. 106-107 Work Groups and advises the Grants Executive Board and OMB of P.L. 106-107 initiatives/projects that should be implemented. It serves as a forum for sharing best practices and determining the means of implementing streamlining initiatives. This committee is co-chaired by OMB and DHHS and its membership includes the chairperson of the four P.L. 106-107 Work groups—Pre-Award, Post-Award, Mandatory Grants, and Audit Oversight.

The purpose and objectives of each of the P. L. 106-107 interagency workgroups are briefly described in the following paragraphs. Membership is open to all of the 26 grant-making agencies.

PRE-AWARD WORK GROUP

The Pre-Award Work Group is responsible for identifying streamlining and simplification opportunities in the phase of the grants life cycle during which potential applicants for discretionary grants 1) identify funding opportunities, 2) prepare and submit applications, 3) are notified if their applications were successful or unsuccessful, and 4) receive grant awards. The objectives of this Work Group are to streamline, simplify, and improve the grants administration policy framework, announcements of funding opportunities (and related business processes), the process for obtaining certifications and assurances, and award documents, including terms and conditions. The Interagency Committee on Suspension and Debarment authorized under Executive Order 12549 and whose activity extends to both Federal procurement and non-procurement activities, has collaborated with the Pre-Award Work Group in making changes to government-wide non-procurement suspension and debarment requirements.

POST-AWARD WORK GROUP

The Post-Award Work Group is responsible for identifying streamlining and simplification opportunities in the phase of the grants life cycle during which recipients perform project activities under their awards and submit progress, financial, and other required reports (other than audit reports). In addition, it covers the grantee's request for and receipt of payment, the monitoring of awards for compliance and progress, and the provision of federal technical assistance. This work is carried out by several subgroups responsible for review of the cost principles, developing a common front-end for payment systems, and the following types of reports: financial, performance or progress, real property, personal property and invention reports.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

The Training and Certification Work Group is responsible for addressing government-wide issues concerning the grants management workforce. This Work Group's objectives include developing the grants management series as a

professional series under Office of Personnel Management guidelines and developing standards for a grants management training and certification program.

MANDATORY GRANTS WORK GROUP

The Mandatory Grants Work Group is responsible for identifying streamlining and simplification opportunities for mandatory grants, which include block grants, formula-based grants, and entitlement grants. These grants are distinct in many respects from discretionary grants, while being similar in others. The objective of this Work Group is to streamline the administrative process for mandatory grants, including electronic submission of applications and plans. This Work Group is working closely with the Pre-Award and Post-Award Work Groups to develop or evaluate proposals in areas intended to apply equally to discretionary and mandatory grants.

AUDIT OVERSIGHT WORK GROUP

The Audit Oversight work group is responsible for improving the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) A-133 single audit process to ensure that audits provide useful and reliable information to Federal agencies and pass-through entities and that recipient audits are in compliance with Federal audit requirements. The Work Group's objectives include: 1) maintaining the OMB A-133 Compliance Supplement for up-to-date information on Federal requirements; 2) reviewing ways to verify that single audits are conducted and submitted as required; 3) ensuring that audit quality is adequate; and 4) improving the services provided by the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. The activities of this Work Group are being carried out by several subgroups addressing the A-133 Compliance Supplement, audit quality, sub-recipient monitoring, and auditing of indirect costs.